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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

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DATE DISTR. 1 December 1950

SUBJECT Harbor and Shipyards of Rostock

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1. The channel is to be deepened for the car ferry from Rostock to Gehlsdorf on the opposite side of the Warnow River. It is planned to have a ferry for automobiles and other vehicles built at the Neptun Shipyard to cope with the increased traffic. (1)
2. A basin for river craft is being built in Rostock's Western Harbor. The quay there, 170 meters long, will be fitted with sheet piling (Spundwand). Three loading bridges are being reinforced or newly erected. The Gravel Harbor has been almost entirely reconstructed. (2)
3. The plans for the Fishing Combine (sic) on the lower Warnow river have been completed and work there is going to be started. Approaches to the site are to be built, and spur tracks will be laid in 1950. The extensive dredging operations for the harbor will also be started in 1950. The largest German fishing harbor will be built at this site. (3)
4. Twenty-four million eastmarks have been spent so far on the enlargement of the commercial harbors of Rostock and Wismar. Their annual capacity has been increased from 3.1 to 7 million tons.
5. The first building of the Neptun Yard in Rostock, on Doberaner Strasse, seems to be the seat of the Soviet naval control commission for the shipyard. There is also a Soviet naval radio station at this place. A so-called Zeppelin antenna about 30 meters long, and a standard antenna about 50 meters in length are on top of this building. (4)
6. A 17.6-meter fishing cutter of Type 18 D is under construction at the Gehlsdorf Shipyard. Alongside this yard's fitting-out quay four cutters of the same type are berthed, awaiting the installation of their Diesel engines. The deck-superstructures, masts and riggings are finished. (5)
7. The Rostock Diesel engine plant supplied the first series of ten 100-HP Diesel engines to the Damgarten Shipyard for installation in the fishing cutters of type 18 D. The shipyards are still very short of material and skilled workers. (6)

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Comments.

- (1) According to the survey plan of 1945 the channel used by the ferry was, in parts, only 2.5 to 3 meters deep. The employment of a larger ferry would require the dredging of the channel.

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- (2) Western Harbor is the name for the western section of Rostock Port. The exact location of the Gravel Harbor is not known, it may, however, be assumed that this is a section of the quay whose total length is 800 meters. This quay was in a bad condition, and systematic repair work in this part of the harbor therefore seems probable.
- (3) According to previous information the Fishing Combine will be erected on the premises of the former Weinkel Works. Its construction was scheduled to be started on 28 February 1950 at the same time that construction work was to begin on a fishing harbor in Sassnitz. The construction of dwelling units for 3,000 fishermen is under way in both towns. The number of cutters stationed in Rostock will probably be much larger than the 185 cutters to be stationed in Sassnitz. Of these Sassnitz cutters, which are up to 24 meters long, 65 of type 18 D are already available. It is difficult to believe that so large a number of fishing craft can be employed economically.
- (4) The radio station observed is presumably the local radio station of the Soviet naval base. Judging from the antennas it probably consists of a receiving and transmitting set. The naval headquarters probably supervises the repair work performed at the Neptun Shipyard on Soviet warships.
- (5) The report does not indicate whether the Gehlsdorf Shipyard is the Rohde Shipyard or another yard.
- (6) The shortage of skilled workers and materials has been repeatedly reported. This is not surprising in view of the extensive building program.

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